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ORIGINAL COMPLAINT INTRODUCTION

- 1. Plaintiff is an individual with a disability. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. and the Tex. Hum. Res. Code § 121.001 et seq. This Complaint seeks redress for past and continuing discrimination against persons with disabilities. This discrimination is occurring at the shopping center where, among other things, the Mexigo restaurant is located in Allen, Texas. The center and the restaurant are owned and or operated by the Defendants.
- 2. Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the Defendants from maintaining and to require that the Defendants remove the architectural barriers that interfere with Plaintiff's right to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of the Defendants at the shopping center and the restaurant.
- 3. Plaintiff also seeks a permanent injunction to prevent the Defendants from engaging in these unlawful practices, as well as declaratory relief and attorney's fees and

costs of litigation.

JURISDICTION

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the federal claims brought in this action under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 42 U.S.C. §12188 and supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims. under 28 U.S.C. §1367.

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff Leslie Greer ("Ms. Greer") is an individual with a disability within the meaning of the ADA Sec. 3(2)(A), 42 U.S.C. 12102(2)(A)), and a "Person with a disability" as defined by Tex. Hum. Res. Code § 121.002(4). She is unable to walk as the result of a spinal cord injury and must use a wheelchair for mobility.
- 6. The property is a large mixed use shopping center with many different types of businesses in it such as, Allen Jewelers, Quizno's, Wing Stop, GNC, Texas Credit Union, a U.S. Post Office, Panda Express, and of course, Mexigo Restaurant Bar and Grill. It is located generally at the corner of McDermott and Central Expressway. It is comprised of several pieces of real property owned by the "EDK Allen" defendants. The real property is described in Collin County property records as Greenway Allen Retail, Lot 1A, Greenway Allen Retail Lot 1B, Greenway Allen Retail, Lot 6 and Greenway Allen Retail, Lot 7. (referred to together herein as the "Property" or the "Shopping Center"). The Property has a total value listed in the Collin County Appraisal District of more than \$5,000,000.00.
- 7. Defendant, EDK Allen II LP is a Texas limited partnership. Records indicate that it owns Greenway Allen Retail, Lot 1A, Greenway Allen Retail Lot 1B, and Greenway Allen Retail. The General partner for EDK Allen II LP is defendant EDK Allen II GP,

- LLC. They are both Texas entities doing business in Texas. The agent for service of process for both entities is the same Kim Lawrence located at 5720 LBJ Frwy., Ste. 410, Dallas, TX 75240.
- 8. Defendant EDK Allen III LP is a Texas limited partnership. Records indicate that it owns Greenway Allen Retail, Lot 7. The general partner of EDK Allen III LP is defendant EDK Allen III GP, LLC. Both of these entities are Texas entites doing business in Texas. The agent for service of process for both entities is the same Kim Lawrence located at 5720 LBJ Frwy., Ste. 410, Dallas, TX 75240 as for the EDK Allen II entities. Combined the EDK Allen entities are referred to herein as the "Landlord".
- 9. Defendant Las Piramides Inc. d/b/a Mexigo Restaurant Bar and Grill is a Texas for profit corporation doing business in Texas. This defendant owns and operates the Mexigo restaurant (the "Tenant"). The agent for service of process on Mexigo is Jose Jaimes located at 533 W. McDermott Drive, Allen, Texas 75002.
- 9. Under the law, both the landlord who owns the building that houses a place of public accommodation and the tenant who owns or operates the place of public accommodation are liable for the violations of the ADA. As between those parties, allocation of responsibility for complying may be determined by lease or other contract 36 C.F.R. 201 (b).

BACKGROUND

10. More than 18 years ago Congress determined that disabled people, such as the Plaintiff, were being discriminated against. Specifically Congress found, in part, the following:

- (a) some 43,000,000 Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities, and this number is increasing as the population as a whole is growing older;
- (b) historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem;
- (c) discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists in such critical areas as employment, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, communication, recreation, institutionalization, health services, voting, and access to public services;
- (d) unlike individuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, or age, individuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of disability <u>have often had no legal recourse to redress such discrimination</u>;
- (e) individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, overprotective rules and policies, failure to make modifications to existing facilities and practices, exclusionary qualification standards and criteria, segregation, and relegation to lesser services, programs, activities, benefits, jobs, or other opportunities; 42 U.S.C. 12101(a) (emphasis added).
- 11. As a result of these findings the Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (the "ADA"), 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. That act forms a basis for this action. The ADA was designed to do several things, specifically:
 - (a) to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
 - (b) to provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
 - (c) to ensure that the Federal Government plays a central role in enforcing the standards established in this chapter on behalf of individuals with disabilities; and
 - (d) to invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day-to-day by people with disabilities." 42 U.S.C. 12101(b) (emphasis added).

These laws have been in effect for more than 15 years. Any entity engaged in owning or operating a public accommodation should be well aware of the requirements. Congress

provided that individual disabled citizens would be empowered to enforce this civil rights law. The effect of having millions of disabled individuals enforcing the requirements greatly increases the likelihood of compliance by the public accommodations. Ms. Greer is now exercising her right, granted by Congress, to require that the Defendants comply with the law.

FACTS

- 12. Ms. Greer has lived in Allen for many years. Ms. Greer uses a wheelchair for mobility. Ms. Greer has been an active advocate for the disabled with varying degrees of involvement over more than the past ten years. Ms. Greer has been to the Property on more than one occasion in the past year. Most recently she wanted to go to the Mexigo Restaurant this summer. When she arrived she noted that the accessible parking was not only insufficient, but most of it was wrong. Further, many of the curb cuts were wrong and when she got up to the Mexigo restaurant, she was faced with a metal fence in the middle of the "accessible" route. The fencing narrowed the accessible route down below the legal limit and forced her into cross slopes and inaccessible routes just to get to the front door. Every time she uses the Shopping Center she faces architectural barriers.
- 13. There are numerous problems at the site. There are not enough accessible parking spaces. There is not an accessible route through the facility due to cross and running slopes. Some of the accessible parking spaces do not have curb cuts. Some of the accessible parking spaces are not flat and level. Many do not have an accessible route to the front door of any of the businesses in the Shopping Center. This is not a comprehensive list of problems at the site. Once the Plaintiff is allowed formal discovery a complete list of the problems at the site will be provided.

- 14. Collin County records indicate that the Shopping Center was built brand new from the ground up after January 1993. As such it is new construction and must comply with the new construction guidelines under the ADA
- 15. Upon each visit Ms. Greer will encounter some of the above listed architectural barriers at the Property. Despite those barriers she will continue to try to use the Property. The barriers located on the Property discriminate against her with regards to using the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations located on the Property.
- As a result of the Defendants' conduct and in order to pursue this matter Plaintiff has retained an attorney with 20 years of experience, including having been appointed class counsel on several occasions to represent mobility impaired individuals of Texas. Ms. Greer's counsel is very familiar with this type of litigation. The Plaintiff has agreed to pay this attorney, whose name appears on this Compliant, a reasonable fee. Pursuant to her statutory rights, Ms. Greer will seek to recover her fees and any costs in this litigation from the Defendants if she is the prevailing party in this case.

CAUSES OF ACTION Count 1

ADA - Failure to Accommodate, New Construction

17. The law requires that "[n] o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of a disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation". 42 U.S.C. §12182(a) (italics added).

- 18. A facility means all *or any portion of buildings*, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located. 28 CFR part 36.104 Definitions (italics added).
- 19. The Property/shopping center is a facility and/or public accommodation under the law.
- 20. Discrimination includes "a failure to design and construct facilities for first occupancy after January 26, 1993, that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities". 28 CFR part 36.401 New Construction.
- 21. [A] facility is designed and constructed for first occupancy after January 26, 1993, only –
- (i) If the last application for a building permit or permit extension for the facility is certified to be complete, by a State, County, or local government after January 26, 1992 (or, in those jurisdictions where the government does not certify completion of applications, if the last application for a building permit or permit extension for the facility is received by the State, County, or local government after January 26, 1992); and
- (ii) If the first certificate of occupancy for the facility is issued after January 26, 1993. 28 CFR part 36.401
- 22. Upon information and belief, the last building permit was filed and the first certificate of occupancy for the Shopping Center was issued after January 26, 1993. Therefore, *under the statutory definition*, the Shopping Center is "new construction" under the ADA.

- 23. The guidelines for new construction are clearly set out in the Federal ADA Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, 28 CFR Part 36, Appendix A, (the "ADAAG").
- 24. Defendants fail to comply with the ADAAG requirements at the Shopping Center because of the numerous architectural barriers that exist there. Many of those barriers are previously set out in the "Facts" section of this Complaint.
- 25. The Defendants discriminate against Ms. Greer because they have failed to design and construct facilities (the Shopping Center) for first occupancy later than 30 months after the date of enactment of the ADA that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. 42 USC 12183(a)(1).
- 26. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' denial of appropriate and dignified access into and use of the Shopping Center, the Defendants deprived Plaintiff of her civil liberties and have thereby discriminated against her.

Count 2 ADA - Improper Alterations

- 27. In the alternative, some of the modifications and alterations that exist at the Property were installed after the ADA guidelines went into effect. As such the law requires that they have been built in compliance with the ADAAG standards. They were not.
 - (a) General. (1) Any alteration to a place of public accommodation or a commercial facility, after January 26, 1992, shall be made so as to ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs.
 - (2) An alteration is deemed to be undertaken after January 26, 1992, if the physical alteration of the property begins after that date.
 - (b) Alteration. For the purposes of this part, an alteration is a change to a place of public accommodation or a commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or any part thereof.

28 C.F.R. 36.402

- 28. Clearly, features designed to allow access into a Shopping Center "affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or any part thereof." Parking spaces and accessible routes affect the usability of the Property. To the extent that the parking and access routes have been modified since the Shopping Center was constructed, those areas must comply as modifications. Those modifications do not comply with the law.
- 29. The Defendants discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of a disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations at the Property in that, the Defendants do not afford to Plaintiff or any other mobility impaired individual the full and equal use and or enjoyment of or access to the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations available at the Property as required by law because they have failed to ensure that the alterations made after January 26, 1992 are accessible to the maximum extent feasible.
- 30. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' denial of appropriate and dignified access into and use of the Shopping Center, the Defendants have deprived Plaintiff of her civil liberties and thereby discriminated against her.

Count 3

ADA - Failure to Accommodate When Removal was Readily Achievable

31. The law requires that "[n] o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of a disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation". 42 U.S.C. §12182(a) (italics added).

- 32. A facility means all *or any portion of buildings*, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located. 28 CFR part 36.104 Definitions (italics added).
- 33. The problems at the Shopping Center, some of which are set out in paragraph 13 include parking and paths of travel which are therefore part of the facility.
- 34. The ADA places an ongoing obligation on all public accommodations to remove architectural barriers from existing facilities and public accommodations if that removal is readily achievable.

Readily achievable means easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. In determining whether an action is readily achievable factors to be considered include --

- (1) The nature and cost of the action needed under this part;
- (2) The overall financial resources of the site or sites involved in the action; the number of persons employed at the site; the effect on expenses and resources; legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation, including crime prevention measures; or the impact otherwise of the action upon the operation of the site;
- 28 CFR part 36.104 Definitions
- 35. The Defendants, like the owners or operators of all public accommodations, have been under this obligation for more than 17 years. Each year the Shopping Center has been open since 1992 and or when the particular defendant first owned and or operated the Shopping Center or the Business, that Defendant could have removed some, one, or more of the barriers set out earlier in the "Facts" portion of this Complaint, or other barriers that exist at the Shopping Center.
- 36. The Justice Department has set out the priorities for barrier removal. Specifically

the Justice Department has determined as follows:

- (c) Priorities. A public accommodation is urged to take measures to comply with the barrier removal requirements of this section in accordance with the following order of priorities.
- (1) First, a public accommodation should take measures to provide access to a place of public accommodation from public sidewalks, parking, or public transportation. These measures include, for example, installing an entrance ramp, widening entrances, and providing accessible parking spaces.

28 CFR part 36.304(c)

- 37. The barriers that exist at the Shopping Center include no accessible parking and no accessible route from parking to the front door. The Defendants have therefore failed to remove the barriers from the Shopping Center made the top priority under the law, when removal of many, if not all, of the barriers was readily achievable.
- 38. The Defendants discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of a disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations at the Shopping Center in that, the Defendants own and or operate a public accommodation that does not afford to Plaintiff or any other mobility impaired individual the full and equal use and or enjoyment of or access to the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations available at the Shopping Center required by law because the Defendants have failed to remove those barriers where the removal was readily achievable.
- 39. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' denial of appropriate and dignified access into and use of the Branch, the Defendants deprive the Plaintiff of her civil liberties and have thereby discriminated against her.

Count 4 Tex. Hum. Res. Code – Discrimination

- 40. Tex. Hum. Res. Code § 121.003(a) provides that persons who are physically disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to the full use and enjoyment of any public facility in the state.
- 41. TEX GOV CODE §469.003 (Vernon 2003) defines one set of public facilities covered by the law, specifically, "a privately funded building or facility defined as a "public accommodation" by Section 301(7) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12181), and its subsequent amendments, that is constructed or renovated, modified, or altered on or after January 1, 1992" (emphasis added). The Hospital is covered under this definition as previously set out in this Complaint.
- 42. The State of Texas, Texas Accessibility Standards (the "TAS") of the Architectural Barriers Act, Article 9102, Texas Civil Statutes, are similar to and closely track the ADAAG. The TAS clearly sets out certain requirements for public accommodations such as the Hospital with regards to design requirements.
- 43. Complying with the TAS is a requirement of Chapter 469 of the Government Code. Violation of TAS is therefore a violation of Chapter 469. A violation of Chapter 469 is a violation of §121.003(d)(1) of the Tex. Hum. Res. Code. because §121.003 (d)(1) specifically states that a failure to comply with Article 9102, Texas Civil Statutes is a form of discrimination in Texas. Therefore violation of the TAS requirements is a violation of §121.003 of the Tex. Hum. Res. Code. Article 9102 was simply codified into Chapter 469 of the Government Code in 2003.
- 44. The architectural barriers previously set out in the "Facts" portion of this

Complaint, regarding the parking and path of travel are violations of the TAS requirements as well as the ADAAG. Further, the Texas law requires a review of the plans to construct when the construction is in excess of \$50,000.00. That review must be submitted prior to construction. Further, the law requires that the facility be inspected for compliance with TAS within one year of construction completion. Plaintiff was unable to locate any records at TDLR to indicate any compliance with these requirements.

- 45. Any public facility that violates the provisions of Section 121.003 is deemed to have deprived a person with a disability of his or her civil liberties. The person with a disability deprived of his or her civil liberties may maintain a cause of action for damages in a court of competent jurisdiction, and there is a conclusive presumption of damages in the amount of no less than \$100. Tex. Hum. Res. Code § 121.004(b). (italics added.)
- 46. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violation of Texas law and it's denial of appropriate and dignified access into and use of the Shopping Center and restaurant, the Defendants deprived Ms. Greer her civil liberties. Ms. Greer suffered inconvenience and the indignity and stigma of discrimination as a result.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Wherefore Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court grant the following relief:

- 47. An order directing the Defendants to bring the Property into compliance with the new construction standards of the ADAAG and TAS.
- 48. In the alternative, an order directing the Defendants to bring the Property into compliance with the new construction standards of the ADAAG and TAS to the extent that it is readily achievable.
- 49. An order directing the Defendants to stop discriminating against Ms. Greer now and in the future and for the \$100.00 mandatory monetary damages under State law.

- 50. An award to Plaintiff for her attorney's fees, including litigation expenses, and costs.
- 51. An award to Plaintiff of such other and further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted September 29, 2009 by,

Mr. Palmer D. Bailey Attorney-in-charge

Bar Card No. 01533400

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Attorney for Plaintiff

Plaintiff Demands a Trial by Jury

SJS 44 (Rev. 3/99)



The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Leslie Greer ORIGINAL				DEFENDANTS EDK ALLEN II LP, EDK ALLEN II GP, LLC, EDK ALLEN III LP, EDK ALLEN III GP, LLC, and Las Piramides Inc. d/b/a Mexigo Restaurant Bar and Grill		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Collin (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.		
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Law Office of Palmer Bailey, p.c. Attn: Palmer Bailey 16633 DALLAS PKWY, SUITE 600 Addison, TX 75001 972.588.1863			001107	Attorneys (If Kno	9 C V 1 8 6	5 - M
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff						
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 2 U.S. Government	(U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State		
Defendant				of Business In Another State		
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IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)	Fore	ign Country		
CONTRACT	ТО	RTS	FORF	EITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
 □ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment ₺ Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 	□ 310 Airplane □ 362 Per □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 365 Per □ 320 Assault, Libel & Pro □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 368 Asl □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 370 Ott Liability □ 371 Tru	PERSONAL INJUI □362 Personal Injury— Med. Malpractice □365 Personal Injury— Product Liability □368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPEI □370 Other Fraud □371 Truth in Lending □380 Other Personal	☐ 620 ☐ 629 ☐ 630 ☐ 640 ☐ 650 ☐ 660	O Agriculture O Other Food & Drug S Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC O Liquor Laws O R.R. & Truck O Airline Regs. O Occupational Safety/Health O Other LABOR	□ 1422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 1423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 ■ PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 1820 Copyrights □ 1830 Patent □ 1840 Trademark ■ SOCIAL SECURITY	410 Antitrust
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability REAL PROPERTY	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury	Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONE	720	Fair Labor Standards Act Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐B61 HIA (1395ff) ☐B62 Black Lung (923) ☐B63 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐B64 SSID Title XVI	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act
□ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment X 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 440 Other Civil Rights	PETITIONS □510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: □530 General □535 Death Penalty □540 Mandamus & Othe □550 Civil Rights □555 Prison Condition		Disclosure Act Disclosure Act Railway Labor Act Other Labor Litigation Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act		□ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes □ 890 Other Statutory Actions
V. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) X 1 Original Proceeding Proceeding State Court (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) Appeal to District Judge from another district (specify) Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Reopened Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate State Court Appeal to District State Court State Court Appeal to District State Court State Court State Court State Court Sta						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) Complaint for discrimination under the ADA for accommodations 42 U.S.C. 12101 et.seq						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23				AAND S CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: x Yes		
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY		JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	, A 168 LI NO
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